Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Original) A method of managing network related tasks on a network, said method comprising:

(a)   maintaining a pool of said network related tasks;

(b)   assigning a priority value to at least a portion of said network related tasks, wherein said priority value is based at least in part on network bandwidth to be employed in order to process said network related tasks;

(c)   periodically monitoring available network bandwidth on said network; and

(d)   processing said network related tasks based at least in part on the priority values, and the available network bandwidth.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

creating the task pool based at least in part on a pool of uncompleted network related tasks.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:

entering additional network related tasks into the task pool through a user interface.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, and further comprising:

entering additional network related tasks into the task pool automatically via a computing system coupled to said network.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein maintaining the task pool comprises updating the task pool based at least in part on completed tasks.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority value for at least one task of said network related tasks is determined based at least in part on the file size of said at least one task, wherein said at least one task further comprises at least one file.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein periodically monitoring available network bandwidth comprises sending a PING across said network, receiving an echo response across said network, sending a bandwidth PING across said network, and receiving a bandwidth response across said network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring available network bandwidth comprises transferring a data file across a network, and determining an estimate of available bandwidth based at least in part on the elapsed time to transfer said data file.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing at least one task of said network related tasks comprises executing a command line in said at least one task of said network related tasks.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing said network related tasks comprises initiation by a resident application, wherein a resident application further comprises software capable of initiating tasks.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of substantially determining network connectivity and bandwidth, said method comprising:

(a)   transmitting a PING (Packet Internet Groper) from a source node on said network to a destination node on said network;

(b)   receiving an echo response at said source node from said destination node;

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(c) transmitting a bandwidth PING from said source node to said destination node;

(d) receiving a bandwidth echo at said source node; ~~and~~

(e) reporting at least a portion of the data received in (b) and (d) to a network management system<u>; and</u>

(f) <u>if it is determined that the bandwidth echo indicates sufficient bandwidth to process one or more network tasks, then processing the one or more network tasks based on a priority ranking for each of the one or more network tasks and available bandwidth.</u>

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

repeating ~~steps~~ (a), (b), (c), (d)<u>, (e)</u> and ~~(e)~~ <u>(f)</u> for any other source node coupled to said network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said PING and said echo response substantially conform with Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP).

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said bandwidth PING and said bandwidth echo substantially conform with Beyssac protocol.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a task pool on a network management system, said method comprising:

(a) adding a <u>network</u> task to said task pool;

(b) estimating the <u>network</u> bandwidth to be employed to complete said <u>network</u> task;

(c) assigning a priority value to said <u>network</u> task, wherein said priority value is based at least in part on the estimated <u>network</u> bandwidth; and

(d) updating said task pool based at least in part on completion of said <u>network</u> task.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, and further comprising:

creating said task pool based at least in part on a list of uncompleted network tasks.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, and further comprising:

adding a the network task to said task pool via a user interface.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, and further comprising:

adding a the network task to said task pool automatically via a resident application.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein assigning a priority value includes

obtaining a the priority value from an external source.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein assigning a priority value includes

assigning a the priority value via an automated methodology.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein assigning a priority value comprises

comparing the estimated network bandwidth with available network bandwidth on said network.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein updating said task pool comprises

removing said network task from said task pool based at least in part on completion of said network

task.

23.   (Original) An article comprising:

a storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, when executed by a computing

platform, result in execution of a network management system by:

maintaining a pool of said network related tasks;

assigning a priority value to at least a portion of said network related tasks, wherein said

priority value is based at least in part on network bandwidth to be employed in order to process

said network related tasks;

periodically monitoring available network bandwidth on said network; and

processing said network related tasks based at least in part on the priority values, and the

available network bandwidth.

24.   (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein said storage medium further has stored instructions

thereon that, when executed, result in the initiation of said network related tasks by an automated

methodology.

25.   (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein said priority values are assigned based at least in part

on the file size of an associated task.

26.   (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein said priority values are assigned at least in part based

on a measure of the importance of said network related tasks, wherein the value of the measure of the

importance is determined by an external source.

27.   (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein maintaining said task pool comprises updating the task pool based at least in part on completed and uncompleted tasks.

28.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing network related tasks comprising:

a computing platform being adapted to, in operation, perform the management of network related tasks by:

maintaining a pool of said network related tasks;

assigning a priority value to at least a portion of said network related tasks, wherein said priority value is based at least in part on network bandwidth to be employed in order to process said network related tasks;

periodically monitoring available network bandwidth on said network; and

processing said network related tasks based at least in part on the priority values, and the available network bandwidth.-

29.   (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein maintaining said task pool comprises removing network related tasks from said task pool based at least in part on completion of said network related tasks.

30.   (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein said network related tasks are initiated via an automated methodology.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein said priority values are assigned based at least in part on the importance of the associated tasks, wherein the importance is determined by an external source.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein said priority values are determined based at least in part on a file size of the associated task.